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SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE FLOYD

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE TO HELP IN ADDRESSING THE URGENT NEEDS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC STATES IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE FLOYD

NOVEMBER 8, 1999.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, November 5, 1999.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed request for supplemental appropriations language to help in addressing the urgent needs of the mid-Atlantic States in the wake of Hurricane Floyd.

Specifically, the requested change in appropriations language would facilitate the use of $429 million of the $2.5 billion in contingent emergency funding provided to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund by P.L. 106–74, the FY 2000 VA/HUD/Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, for residential home buy-outs and relocation assistance for victims of Hurricane Floyd.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

Enclosure.

[Estimate No. 41, 106th Cong., 1st Sess.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, November 5, 1999.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

Submitted for your consideration is a request for FY 2000 supplemental appropriations language for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This request would permit up to $429 million in contingent emergency appropriations already enacted to be used for home buy-outs and relocation assistance for flood victims of Hurricane Floyd.

As you know, the flood destruction caused by Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina and other States is staggering. In all, more than 12,000 homes located in the 100-year flood plain have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by flooding. Without this supplemental, assistance would be capped at much less than the full need. Under the existing authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c), only 2,200 homes would be eligible for buyouts and relocation assistance.

This supplemental supports relief efforts that are already underway in areas affected by the disaster, including North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Delaware, and Florida.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Accordingly, I join Director Witt in recommending that you transmit the proposal to the Congress.

Sincerely,

JACOB J. LEW, *Director.*

Enclosure.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

In addition to sums otherwise authorized under 42 U.S.C. 5170c, the President may contribute under subsection (a) of such section, from sums appropriated for disaster relief (notwithstanding the restriction in the last sentence of such subsection) up to $429,149,000 for property acquisition and relocation assistance for residential homeowner victims of Hurricane Floyd, where the homeowner's residence has been made uninhabitable by flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd and is located in the 100-year flood plain.

This request would permit $429.1 million of the contingent emergency funds appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund by P.L. 106–74, the FY 2000 VA/HUD/Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, to be used for home buy-outs and relocation assistance for flood victims of Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina and other affected States.

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